

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/632,495

Examiner

Lan Vinh

Applicant(s)

AEGERTER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 4/9/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18, 20-24, 27-34, 54-55, 57-59, 66-71.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Lan Vinh
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In page 1 of the specification, "now US Patent 6,413,436" has been inserted after "November 10, 1999", "now US Patent 6,423,642" has been inserted after "No. 09/437,711 filed November 10, 1999", "now US Patent 6,318,385" has been inserted after "March 13, 1998", "now US Patent 6,264,752" has been inserted after "July 10, 1998", "now US Patent 6,350,319" has been inserted after "09/041901 filed March 13, 1998"

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-18, 20-24, 27-34, 54-55, 57-59, 66-71 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 32, the cited prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a process for treating an electrochemically processed workpiece comprises a step of placing the workpiece in a reaction chamber that includes a first chamber portion receiving the first side of the workpiece and a second chamber portion receiving the second side of the workpiece, the first chamber portion and the second chamber portion

being defined by separable first and second reactor members that cooperatively support the workpiece, in combination with the rest of the steps of claims 1, 32.

The reasons for allowance of claims 23, 67 have been stated in the previous office action

Regarding claims 28, 29, the cited prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a process for treating an electrochemically processed workpiece comprises a step of supplying a first fluid to the first chamber portion to expose the first side and the peripheral edge to the first fluid while contacting no more than an outer margin of the second side with the first fluid, wherein the first fluid comprises an etchant for removal of a metal film or oxide film from an exposed surface portion of the workpiece, and wherein at least a portion of the first side and peripheral edge of the workpiece are contaminated with copper and the first fluid is an etchant capable of stripping the copper from the workpiece/wherein at least a portion of the first side and the perimeter edge are contaminated with cobalt and the first fluid is an etchant capable of etching the cobalt from the exposed surface of the workpiece , in combination with the rest of the limitation of claim 28 and 29.

Regarding claim 30, the cited prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a process for treating an electrochemically processed workpiece comprises a step of treating the first and second sides of the workpiece with a second fluid to remove unreacted cobalt followed by exposing the first side to the etchant, in combination with the rest of the limitation of claim 30

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Regarding claim 31, the cited prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest a process for treating an electrochemically processed workpiece comprises a step of supplying a first fluid to the first chamber portion to expose the first side and the peripheral edge to the first fluid while contacting no more than an outer margin of the second side with the first fluid, wherein the first fluid comprises an etchant for removal of a metal film or oxide film from an exposed surface portion of the workpiece, and wherein at least a portion of the back side and peripheral edge are coated in an oxide film and the first fluid comprises an acidic etchant capable of removing the oxide film from the exposed surface of the workpiece , in combination with the rest of the limitation of claim 31

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lan Vinh whose telephone number is 571 272 1471. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571 272 1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LV' followed by a stylized flourish.

LV
April 27, 2007